

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /063 W

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O R 040001Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4388

INFO USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: SNYDER AMENDMENT AND THE FOURTH OF JULY

SUMMARY: THE GOP AND THE PRESS HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTING THE FIRMNESS OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE A TREATY WITH PANAMA IN ORDER TO CALM PUBLIC AND STUDENT REACTIONS TO THE SNYDER AMENDMENT. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 4.

END SUMMARY

1. THE GOP IS UNDER PRESSURE TO REACT TO SNYDER AMENDMENT, BUT EXCEPT FOR TORRIJOS' NON-INFLAMMATORY STATEMENT LAST WEEK OFFICIALS HAVE REMAINED QUIET. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS OZORES WAS PRESSURED BY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PROMISE TO LEAD A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EMBASSY SHOULD THE SENATE PASS THE SNYDER AMENDMENT. AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, THE TRADITIONAL "FOURTH OF JULY CLASSIC" AT THE PRESIDENT REMON RACE TRACK WAS SUDDENTLY RENAMED "THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN CLASSIC" AND ITS DATE SHIFTED TO JULY 6. INQUIRIES TO DIRECTOR OF RACING ELICITED RESPONSE THAT CHANGE HAD BEEN MADE PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM "HIGHER" AUTHORITIES.

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2. SOME NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS HAVE SUGGESTED PANAMANIAN SHOULD NOT CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY THIS YEAR. MOST NOTABLE WAS A COLUMN IN "MATUTINO" JULY 1 BY RAFAEL MURGAS TORRAZZA, REPORTED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY PANAMA FBIS 22025Z JUL 75, REFLECTED THE DEEP BITTERNESS THAT PANAMANIAN FEEL ABOUT THE "COLONIAL ENCLAVE" ON THEIR TERRITORY AND, WITH EMOTION OVERWHELMING LOGIC, ASSERTED THAT U.S. IS NOT A FREE COUNTRY BECAUSE A NATION WHICH MAINTAINS A COLONIALIST ENCLAVE COULD NOT BE FREE. HE ADVISED, THEREFORE, PANAMANIAN TO STAY AWAY FROM FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR SAYING "IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS, THEN, IF WE OBSERVED THE INDEPENDENCE OF A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT LET US BE FREE." HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, BY SUGGESTING THAT THIS YEAR "WE PANAMANIAN CONGRATULATE ONLY THOSE NORTH AMERICANS WHO FAVOR THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE. THE OTHERS ARE NOT FREE; THEY ARE ENSLAVED."

3. RUMORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR JULY 4 HAVE CIRCULATED ALL WEEK. REPORTS JULY 3 INDICATE THAT THE RADICAL ANTI-GOP AND ANTI-U.S. REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT FRONT (FER) PLAN A MARCH TO U.S. EMBASSY JULY 4. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION, IN WHICH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LABOR UNIONS AND THE MORE MODERATE FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS WILL JOIN FORCES IS REPORTEDLY PLANNED AT TO BEGIN PLAZA PORRAS IN FRONT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THEN WILL MARCH TO CINCO DE MAYO PLAZA.

4. NEWSPAPER TREATMENT OF SNYDER AMENDMENT HAS BEEN CLEARLY DESIGNED TO CALM PANAMANIAN EMOTIONS. THUS, "ESTRELLA'S" HEADLINE TODAY WAS "ANY ACT OF VIOLENCE WOULD BE BAD FOR PANAMA" OVER A STORY TAKEN FROM MEXICO'S "EXCELSIOR". THE ARTICLE ADVISED PANAMANIAN THAT "DESPITE PARALIZATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS...THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEIR NEGOTIATING POWER IS STILL VERY GREAT. ABOVE ALL, IT HAS THE UNMEASURABLE ADVANTAGE OF THE HELP OF RIGHT AND REASON BY WHICH IT HAS CONQUERED INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY."

5. "MATUTINO" FOCUSED ON CONGRESSMAN GEORGE WAHLEN'S STATEMENTS REPORTED BY EFE FROM HAVANA THAT SOONER OR LATER THE CANAL WOULD PASS TO PANAMANIAN CONTROL. THE REMAINDER OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED STATEMENTS SHOWED SYMPATHY FOR PANAMA'S CAUSE.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW BY MINISTER-NEGOTIATOR TACK TODAY (TO BE REPORTED SEPARATELY) IN WHICH HE RESPONDED IN MEASURED AND MODERATE MANNER TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SNYDER AMENDMENT AND THE NEGOTIATIONS. CLEARLY THE GOP AND THE PRESS ARE SEEKING TO CALM THE SITUATION AND AVOID A HOT FOURTH OF JULY.

JORDEN

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